THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The details of companies functioning in the field of Basic Telephone Service and the number of connections provided under the private sector upto March 31, 2001 is as under:

Name of Company	Service Area	Number of connections provided upto 31.3.2001
Bharti Telenet Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	115212
Hughes Telecom (India) Ltd.	Maharashtra	69599
Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	58560
Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Gujarat	160
Shyam Telelink Ltd.	Rajasthan	9119
HFCL Infotel Ltd.	Punjab	13326

Further licences have been granted in 2001-2002 to M/s Reliance Communications Ltd. for 17 service areas, M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd. in 4 service areas and M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd. in 4 service areas for operation of basic telephone service.

Blast of a Telephone Exchange in Warangal

1170. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether People's War Group militants blasted a telephone exchange in Mallampalli in Warangal District in January, 2002;

(b) if so, whether any estimate of the loss has been made;

(c) if so, the details of the same; and

(d) whether culprits have been identified and arrested?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The estimated loss is approximately Rs. 13 lakhs.

(d) No, Sir. The culprits have not been identified and arrested so far.

Mobile phone subscriber

1171. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of mobile phones subscribers as on September, 2001 and what are their number in the five Metro cities Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Kolkata and Chennai;

(b) what is the number of cellular operators and their names in the above five cities; and

(c) what is the growth rate of subscriber base in the first six months of the current financial years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, as per the information furnished by Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) on behalf of Cellular Operators, number of Cellular Mobile Phone Subscribers are as under:—

(i) Total number of Mobile Phone Subscribers in the country as on 30th September, 2001 is 48,07,700.

(ii) Licences for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service are given for Metro Service Areas and Telecom Circle Service Areas. The Cellular Subscribers belong to a complete Service Area and not to a particular city in that Service Area. Bangalore city forms part of Karnataka Telecom Circle Service Area, therefore, the number of subscribers in Karnataka Telecom Circle is given. The subscriber base for Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata